

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert in the first sentence after the title, the following new paragraph.

This application is the U.S. national stage of International Application PCT/EP02/14899, filed December 30, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph of the Abstract with the following paragraph.

### ~~ABSTRACT~~ABSTRACT

A process for obtaining silicon-bridged metallocene compounds comprising the following steps:

- a) reacting, at a temperature of between  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the starting ligand with about 2 molar equivalents of an alkylating agent;
- b) after the reaction has been completed, adding at least 2 molar equivalents of an alkylating agent that can be also different from the first one; and
- c) reacting, at a temperature of between  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the product obtained from step b) with at least 1 molar equivalent of a compound of formula  $\text{ML}'_s$ , wherein M is a transition metal; s is an integer corresponding to the oxidation state of the metal; and L' is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine.